

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected. Claims 8 – 17 have previously been withdrawn. Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Applicants have not submitted proposed drawing corrections or corrected drawings as requested by the Office Action. Applicant notes that the boilerplate “the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims” is in fact, incorrect, as the USPTO issues patents without any drawings all the time. **Before one applies 37 C.F.R. §1.83, one must read 37 C.F.R. §1.81(a) which states:**

**(a) The applicant for a patent is required to furnish a drawing of his or her invention where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented... (emphasis added).**

In the present case, it is not believed that a person of ordinary skill in the art would need a drawing to understand the control unit claimed in claims 6 and 7 of the present invention. A control unit is fully described in the specification (See page 11, line 6 to 15; line 18 to 22; page 12, line 8 to line 10, page 13, line 46; line 25 to page 14, line 1 to 2). Moreover, the addition of a control unit to FIGS. 3 and 4 would only serve to clutter the drawings. Therefore, applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Applicants wish to thank the examiner for pointing out that dependent claims 4, 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, base claim 1 has

been amended to incorporate dependent claim 4. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form.

1. Claim 1-3 and 5 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Konishi (US 2001/0048540). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground for rejection.

Claim 1 as currently amended recites, *inter alia*, an optical switching device comprising a plurality of circulators each **having four or more ports** and *inter alia*, **connected at each intermediate port thereof to a corresponding intermediate port of another one of the circulators.**

In contrast, Konishi, as shown in FIG. 3 discloses 8-1 optical circulators which are connected with corresponding 9-N fiber grating. See Page 2 ¶ [0033]. Moreover, as the office action correctly pointed out, each Koniski circulator as shown in FIG. 3 has three ports unlike the amended base claim which discloses four or more ports. Koniski and the present invention are not structurally similar. Therefore withdrawal of this ground for rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present patent application are respectfully solicited.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited reference. A notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues, which may be best, resolved by telephone communication, please contact Applicant's undersigned Attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 27, 2006

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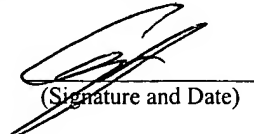
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 27, 2006.

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(Signature and Date)